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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously amended) A basket assembly for a dishwashing machine comprising:

a basket defining at least one compartment having a lattice structure for spray action cleaning of items therein; and

a handle attached to said basket at opposite ends thereof, said handle selectively positionable between a first position and a second position, one of said first and second positions allowing substantially unobstructed access to said compartment for loading and unloading of silverware.
2. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said basket comprises at least one handle bracket, said handle attached to said bracket, said bracket configured for maintaining said handle in said first position and said second position.
3. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said basket comprises a longitudinal axis, said handle extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.
4. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said handle is contoured to form finger grips therein.
5. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 2 wherein said bracket comprises a crown, said handle comprising a peg for insertion into said crown, one of said peg and said crown including a first detent and a second detent therein, the other of said peg and said crown comprising a projection for engagement with said first detent and said second detent.

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6. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said handle includes a gripper portion and an attachment portion extending therefrom, said peg extending from said attachment portion.

7. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said crown is substantially round.

8. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said detent is substantially round.

9. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said handle is channel-shaped in cross section.

10. (previously amended) A basket assembly for a dishwashing machine comprising:
a substantially rectangular silverware basket comprising first and second lateral side walls having a first length and first and second longitudinal side walls having a second length, said second length greater than said first length, each of said side walls having a structure to permit water spray action cleaning of items therein; and

a handle attached to and extending between said lateral side walls and comprising a contoured gripper portion, said handle selectively positionable between a first position and a second position, one of said first and second positions allowing substantially unobstructed access to said compartment for loading and unloading of silverware.

11. (currently amended) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 5 10 wherein said gripper portion is U-shaped in cross section.

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12. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said basket further comprises a handle bracket attached to each of said lateral side walls, said handle attached to said bracket, said bracket configured for maintaining said handle in said first position and said second position.

13. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said handle comprises opposite attachment portions extending from said gripper portion, each of said attachment portions comprising a peg configured to be received by said handle brackets.

14 (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 13 wherein each of said brackets comprises a crown, one of said pegs and said crowns including a first detent and a second detent therein, the other of said pegs and said crowns comprising a projection for engagement with said first detent and said second detent.

15. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said crown is substantially round.

16. (original) A basket assembly in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said detent is substantially round.

17. (previously added) A basket assembly for a dishwashing machine comprising:
a silverware basket defining a longitudinally extending silverware compartment configured for spray action cleaning of items therein; and

a handle attached to said basket and extending longitudinally above said compartment in a first position, said handle movable to a second position allowing substantially unobstructed access to said compartment for loading and unloading of silverware.

18. (previously added) A basket assembly for a dishwashing machine comprising a substantially rectangular silverware basket comprising first and second lateral side walls having a

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first length and first and second longitudinal side walls having a second length, said second length greater than said first length, each of said side walls configured to permit spray action cleaning of items placed in said basket;

a handle bracket attached to each of said lateral side walls; and

a pivotally mounted handle attached to each of lateral side walls at a respective one of said brackets, said handle comprising a gripper portion extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal side walls and substantially centered overhead said basket in a first position, said handle positionable to a second position wherein said gripper portion is located laterally from the first position, thereby allowing substantially unobstructed access to said compartment for loading and unloading of silverware.